Gazette of the United States.

PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY *JOHN FENNO*, No. 9, MAIDEN-LANE, NEW-YORK.

[No. XCIV.] SATURDAY, MARCH, 6, 1790. PRICE *THREE* DOLLARS PR. ANN.

THE TABLET.

No. XCIV.

"A desire to support a party often obtains the character and answers the end of patriotism."

PUBLIC affairs proceed with most alacrity and success, when a considerable degree of party-spirit prevails. Though it may be carried to such excess as to overthrow a government, yet some portion of it is necessary to give vigour to public measures. There is in most men such a temper of selfishness as will induce them to counteract the welfare of the community. This is too stubborn to be controled merely by a sense of duty. It can therefore only be managed by causes more energetic than itself. In this view I am induced to believe, that party spirit may operate as a remedy against those private prejudices, personal caprices, and local attachments, that combine to impede the national prosperity.

When the leading characters of a country are divided into two parties, each of which has some common views or feelings to cement them, it produces a concert of measures, which is often beneficial to the community. One party some times predominates, which, from a turn in affairs, yields afterwards to the predominancy of the other. But whichever of them has the ascendency, the spirit of party still invigorates the actions of both. By this means, considerations, merely private, are absorded by a regard to party-interests, which frequently assume the name of patriotism. In a public assembly, composed of individuals who felt no party attachments, the debates would take a desultory turn and seem to be directed to no fixed object. Personal vanity or whim would tempt the speakers to come forward with new and singular propositions, and there would be no common principle to check their irregularities. It would be like skirmishing at random, where every man discharges his fire at such a mark as his fancy suggests, or perhaps at no mark at all. But in a public assembly where there are two determined parties, the abilities of the speakers act in concert and are directed to a common center. This combination of talents affords an able discusion of subjects, while each side exposes the errors, that the other attemps to inculcate.

There are not now, in the United States, any established parties in the government, who uniformly take sides, in important questions. The distinction of whig and tory does not exist with so much force, as materially to affect political arrangements. The mercantile and landed interests have not such a decided opposition of views, as to produce an inveterate party spirit. Some people will pretend that federal and antifederal characters are at so great variance in opinions, that they may be considered as established parties in government. I do not however view them in this light. Their diversity of sentiments is not so wide; their feelings of dislike to each other are not so keen and inflexible, as to constitute a uniform division in public debate, corresponding to those characteristics. Our government has less to fear from the zeal and activity of its enemies than from the languor and inattention of its friends. If its enemies appeared more formidable, its friends would really be more vigilant.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 1790.

In Committee of the whole, on the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Madison's motion for a discrimination, still under consideration.

MR. SCOTT observed that, inasmuch as he had expressed his sentiments generally on the subject now under consideration, when it bore a shape somewhat different from the present, and considering that perhaps he might be induced to vote in a manner that would not be understood without an explanation, he requested the indulgence of the committee, whilst he attempted to offer his sentiments freely upon the business immediately under their notice.

The arguments of the gentlemen in opposition to the present motion, when taken altogether, seem to rest their whole force upon the idea of a contract said to be made, and of which contract the papers in question are said to be evidences. This is a doctrine which he absolutely denied. If those papers are evidences of any thing, it is of the pre-existing contract broken. At what period, asked Mr. Scott, did Congress contract with their soldiers? At what period did they contract with their citizens, who furnished the necessary supplies for our army? Was it at the time those papers were issued, or long before?---It was long before: consequently those papers cannot be esteemed as possible evidences of any contract, unless we refer to an implied contract made when they were issued, at the conclusion of the war; which, in fact, was the last conceivable period for the settlement of such engagements as had existed long before, and to fulfil which was totally out of the power of Congress. Surely then it must be allowed, since it was not in their power to fulfil the original engagements, and since it was not in the power of interested individuals to compel them to compliance---*that the contract was completely annihilated*, and Congress was reduced to the necessity of offering some consideration in lieu thereof. What did they offer? Papers of the *nominal* value of 20s. but of no more *real* value than 2s. 6d.

The original creditor, in consideration of the distress of his country, and from dire necessity, accepted of this; and would, with equal generosity, have accepted of the 2s. 6d. in cash, and have signed an acquitance for his pay as freely as he assigned over that paper for 2s. 6d. to the speculator. Now if it be urged by gentlemen, that this transaction implies a contract, it may be confessed the papers in question are evidences of such implied contract; but of the real existence whereof there is no proof.

Mr. Scott said he would also aver, that if we are to be overhed by this implied contract, the real value of the paper in question is at once fixed by the market price, then current at 2s. 6d. in the pound: the residue is the last grand sacrifice which the original creditors, as well citizens as soldiers, made to their beloved country. Thence it is evident there was no original consent of parties obtained; and hence no original contract existed. This, said he, is fair reasoning, against which no logic should prevail; it is arguing from the truth, and the eternal nature and fitness of things.

But those papers, it has been said, are not only evidences of a contract, but since they are payable to A. B. or bearer, the bearer is an original contractor! Where will this argument lead us? A robber on the high-way, a private thief, a fraudulent purchaser without consideration---if this argument be admitted---may all or severally become bearers. Are they severally original contractors? Surely, no gentleman will pretend to say that they are. Neither is it possible to detect those frauds, if what has been said is true, that many of those certificates were taken out originally in fictitious names. Suppose one of them has got into the hands of the robber, the burglar, or thief; how will that man who never existed, appear in court and convict him of the fraud? From these premises, Mr. Scott inferred, that as this was a case without remedy, the bare possession of a certificate is not a sufficient evidence to prove the holder was an original contractor.

At an early stage of this business the gentlemen in opposition to the amendment appeared to lay great stress on the want of authority in Congress to intermeddle in such cases: But as we get forward the gentlemen appear to give up; they have been beaten off that ground; and the impolicy and impracticability of the measure is principally urged. Yesterday, however, these same gentlemen abandoned the latter, and resumed the former station with great avidity.

We are likewise told, that altho in the parliament of Great-Britain, which is omnipotent, they can do any thing: Yet we, being a legislative body whose authority is constitutionally confined to certain objects, cannot make the proposed discrimination.

Let us make some enquiry into this. Is not the whole business before us of such a nature, that without our legislative interference it must remain eternally as it is? This, it may be presumed, will be granted on all hands What follows? That as it is a proper subject of legislative discussion, the legislature must, of necessity, and from the nature of the thing, possess all powers necessary to doing what is right and just in the premises; and consequently we have the power of discriminating, if justice and right demand it. The arguments, therefore, which the gentlemen have adopted on this subject, as well as many others to which they have occasionally resorted, must appear to the committee as perfectly inconsistent and futile.

It may be necessary, however, to advert to one or two other examples of the same complexion.

We are told, "that the advocates of the proposed amendment are acting officiously; no complaints having been laid before the House; no petitions; no parties contending before us; therefore, say they, we have nothing to do with it; (here Mr. Scott adverted to Mr. Benson) the question is not legally before the court, &c." This is, in similar phrase, "there is no writ sued out; no bill filed; no issue joined between parties."

In answer to this argument, said Mr. Scott, it is necessary only to observe, that every complaint of the people, by virtue of the representative capacity of their members, is properly, and to all intents and purposes, before the House.

But we are further told, "that no facts have been proved; we have no evidence, therefore we cannot proceed." He granted that no witnesses had appeared to make oath, no swearing in court; but will it follow from thence that we are not possessed of the facts? He presumed not. If the facts are within our knowledge, we are in as full possession of them as if they had been sworn to; and for many other facts, necessary to the investigation of this business, we can resort to our public records. Moreover, there is little use of evidence, other than to inform and convince the minds of the judges. As to the truth and fallacy of the objection, how that information and conviction happens, it is very indifferent; especially in a legislative body. In a word, the arguments to be contended with appear to move in so small and contracted a sphere, as never to extend beyond the pleadings at the bar of a county court; and consequently were very unworthy the attention of the great American court of equity.

Mr. Scott remarked that, from these observations, it might be supposed he would vote for the proposed amendment; but he said, he believed he should not: Not on account of the demerit of the proposition, or the merits of the arguments which had been used against it. There were other considerations which existed, which were not only unprovided for in the amendment, but it seemed to him as if they were barred therefrom.

One of these which came immediately within his own knowledge, and which must be likewise within the knowledge of many gentlemen in the House, one of whom had already mentioned it, is this: Our quarter-masters, purchasers, contractors, &c. or some of them, have been sent out amongst some of our citizens to procure supplies, without a shilling in their pockets: They have bought, on trust, from individuals; afterwards, those individuals have been prevailed upon (without payment being made) to give receipts, as if they had been actually paid, on a pretext that the accounts of the purchaser could not be settled, nor money obtained to pay them, without those previous acquittances. Where this business originated he knew not, but he vouched for the facts in a great number of instances to have come within his knowledge. The consequence appears to be, that those purchasers, on producing the receipts, have obtained certificates for the aggregate sum in their own names, as if for supplies by them furnished and have made no satisfaction to the individuals.

Now, with respect to this species of paper, thus procured by fraud and issued without consideration given by the persons to whom issued, he said he could not consent to fund. Nay, he would sooner part with his right hand than consent to fund certificates thus circumstanced, and thereby subject those very individuals thus robbed of their property, to contribute towards paying the price of that very property into the pockets of their robbers.

Shall it here be said, "the courts are open, and the individuals may there be redressed?" Poor alternative indeed! Where I, said Mr. Scott, to stand upon this floor and hold forth such doctrine as this, "that the courts are open—that the constitution contemplates the United States as a body that may sue and be sued, and points out certain proceedings which shall be had when the United States become a party—and that therefore every holder of a certificate has the recovery of the money in his power, on application to the courts—and should I conclude that Congress has nothing to do with the present business:"—Pray, what should I merit by such pleadings? I doubt whether I should merit pity—contempt I might be certain of receiving.

Suffer me to ask, if the evil I have mentioned, be not too general in its nature to admit of any remedy, but by a legislative interposition? May not many of those contractors be in a state of bankruptcy? May not some of them have travelled to the Spanish main to govern colonies? May not some of them have returned to their usual places of abode, at many hundred miles distance from the defrauded individuals, as aforesaid? And can it be supposed that the widow and the fatherless, the poor and the needy, by them thus defrauded, perhaps of a bullock, or some bushels of wheat, individually, but in the whole, amounting to an enormous sum, can follow them to obtain justice? How are these plunderers to be pursued? And how can any thing be recovered from them in a common court of law? Especially when we consider that to all the difficulties already mentioned, must be added, that the very receipts under their own hands would be exhibited as evidence against the injured, honest, original creditor!

Is not this case, as often to be met with as it is, beyond remedy unless by the interposition of Congress? Now as this case is not only unprovided for, in the amendments proposed by the worthy gentleman from Virginia, but the door seems to be shut against a future provision; and considering that the same gentleman, or some other, may bring forward something that may reach to the root of the evil, and produce more effectual justice: Under these considerrtions, said Mr. Scott, I shall at present vote against the proposition; but if I am disappointed in my expectations, and that gentleman shall bring his propositions again forward in the house, I shall not suppose myself debarred from voting with him.

Mr. SENEY rose and observed, that is was with reluctance he attempted to express to the committee his ideas upon a question which had been so fully and ably discussed. However, as it had been expected that gentlemen would not, in a case of such magnitude, be content with merely a silent vote, he rose to declare the reasons upon which his decision was founded. In doing this, he hoped that he should not use epithets which might be deemed harsh, or language which would be offensive: that although the sentiments of other members should differ from his, he wished so far to respect those sentiments as to treat them with decency.

He considered the proposition of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Madison) was designed to effect two purposes.

The one, a compensation to the original creditors who, during the late war, in times of distress, had loaned money, furnished supplies and rendered military services; and who had only received satisfaction therefor in paper of inconsiderable value, forced on them by the public, and depreciated by their acts. This class of creditors, he conceived, had a just and equitable claim for the full difference in value between that paper, when paid, and specie.

The other object of the proposition alluded to, was, he said, to compensate those creditors who now hold alienated certificates.

Each description of those creditors had, in his opinion, claims on the public. The first was founded on an original contract between them and the government, part of which only had been complied with, and the residue still remained undischarged: the other was grounded on having possession of the paper which contained the promise to pay.

It hath been contended, said he, that the United States have not ability to pay both. In this case a question arises, What is, upon the whole, most just and expedient? Some gentlemen contend, that it is incumbent on us to make full provision for those who hold the assigned certificates, without any for the original creditors who have alienated them. Others think, that the misfortune of government, in this respect, should not be felt by either class solely, but be born by both: that it is more just to adopt a mode of composition, by which those creditors should mutually share in this misfortune, and be mutually benefited by a provision within our power to make. With those his sentiments accorded. He could not be impressed with the justice or reason of a measure, calculated to make a total sacrifice of one class of creditors, and full payment to the other class. Such a step could not, in his opinion, be justified by any distinction or precedence which existed in their claims. When it was considered that the original creditors furnished money and supplies, and rendered services essential to the preservation of their country, at a time when its liberties were invaded, and every thing which can be dear to freemen was in jeopardy and at stake, he could not apprehend that their claims would be deemed inferior to those of their rivals. In his opinion these circumstances entitled them to superior notice. Believing, however, that the amendment under consideration would, upon the whole, effect more substantial justice than any other practicable scheme which had been proposed to the committee, or which he had heard of, his assent would therefore be given to it.

He then noticed a variety of objections which had, in the course of debate, been urged against the amendment he supported. Gentlemen, he said, had insisted, that although the principle of it might be right and proper, yet the execution of the scheme was altogether impracticable. They had also contended, that the adoption of such a proposition would be a violation of those rules which, as to contracts, ought to be held sacred, and also of the constitution under which the government was then acting; that it would be disapproved of, even by the persons for whose benefit the provision was intended.

He observed, that those who admitted the propriety of the measure as to the principle, could not be justified in their opposition upon the ground of impracticability; that the honorable mover of the amendment had, in the course of yesterday's debates, suggested expedients which would, in his opinion, remove the greater part of the objections which ingenuity had urged in that respect: that some particular cases, perhaps, might exist, for which special provision would be requisite: however, as that gentleman had declared his belief in the practicability of the system, such was Mr. Seney's confidence in the sincerity and abilities of the person who made the declaration, that he was not disposed to believe the reverse without giving an opportunity of proof, or until some trial was made. It had been also objected, said he, that the proposed project is violative of the rules which in contracts should ever be preserved: but how, he asked, could gentlemen reconcile this objection to the plan which they advocated? would it not operate with equal force to condemn that, as well as every other, which had been contemplated? The argument, by proving too much, ought therefore to have no influence upon the question. It had also, he said, been mentioned, that the plan in controversy was a violation of the constitution, which every member had taken an oath to support. This observation, he remarked, might be made *in terrorem*, but could have little weight if the words of the constitution, in this respect, were attended to; these are, "all debts contracted, and engagements entered into, before the adoption of the constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this constitution, as under the confederation:"

that the words debts and engagements, here expreſſed, would comprehend as well the reſidue ſtill due to the officers, ſoldiers, and other original creditors, as the claims of the preſent holders of alienated certificates; and that if the conſtitution created any obligation concerning debts, &c. it had equal force with reſpect to every deſcription of creditors. But he apprehended that the conſtitution did not, by the words expreſſed, place any debts alluded to in a ſituation different from that in which they were previous to its adoption.

Great ſtreſs, ſaid he, had been laid upon the practice of other nations. It had been frequently aſſerted, that the meaſure propoſed was without a precedent in any country: it had been repeatedly recommended to us to imitate the Britiſh parliament as to meaſures touching public credit.

We however find, ſaid he, a cauſe was cited yeſterday, by an honorable member from Virginia (Mr. Madiſon) in which they made a proviſion as to debtors, ſimilar to the one now under conſideration. If precedent is therefore to influence, we have one from the nation whoſe public faith is extolled. But it had been obſerved by an honorable member from New-York (Mr. Lawrance) that the precedent then cited was not applicable, becauſe, ſaid the gentleman, the Britiſh parliament and Congreſs are bodies very different as to power; the former is omnipotent and unlimited as to objects of legiſlation; the latter is not ſo, but reſtricted and confined by the conſtitution which controuls their power: That the Britiſh parliament can therefore do many acts conſiſtent with their powers, which Congreſs cannot. This obſervation, ſaid Mr. Seney, does by no means diminiſh the force of the precedent; becauſe, although Congreſs poſſeſs not power as to all objects of legiſlation ſo extenſive as the Britiſh parliament, yet, as to objects within their power, they were as much omnipotent as that parliament. It will not, he conceived, be denied, but that a proviſion reſpecting public credit was one of thoſe objects; with regard, therefore, to the ſubject under debate, there can be no difference between the two bodies as to omnipotence.

It had been remarked, he ſaid, by another member from New-York (Mr. Benſon) that the adoption of the amendment would be improper, becauſe it was unſolicited by thoſe whom it was deſigned to benefit; and becauſe there was reaſon to believe it would meet with diſapprobation.

The gentleman, he ſaid, had informed us of a reſolve of the Cincinnati of this State diſavowing the plan, and cited their proceedings as evidence to prove this diſapprobation. In reply to this, he would not then enquire how proper it would be for the committee, in their deciſion, to be influenced by any act of the Cincinnati, or other ſociety; but believed, if the hiſtory of the proceeding alluded to was fully known, nothing could be inferred from it to effect that gentleman's purpoſe. That he had, ſince the publication of their reſolve, been informed, that the meeting of the ſociety, at the time it paſſed, was not a full one; that ſuch a reſolve was unexpected by many until propoſed, and that it paſſed without debate, and, as it were, *ſub ſilentio*; that he had ſince been informed that ſeveral of the body diſapproved of the reſolve, and believed that if a full meeting was had, a different determination would be the reſult. He had conceived that the worthy members compoſing that body had too much experience of their own ſufferings to be oppoſed to a proviſion in favor of thoſe creditors for whom the compenſation was intended, and could not think that ſuch a proviſion would be diſapproved of by a ſociety of the kind in any of the States.

It had, upon this occaſion, been aſſerted, ſaid he, that public opinion ſhould have little influence on the conduct of legiſlatures. But, notwithſtanding the plauſible reaſoning he had heard upon that head, he was ſatisfied a regard was due and muſt be had to the opinions of the people, and to their feelings. Government, he ſaid, was formed for their benefit; under the preſent conſtitution, all the powers of it flow from them as the ſource; they have the means of carrying into execution their will; and under thoſe circumſtances he could not believe the legiſlature ought to be indifferent as to their ſentiments.

Gentlemen, he ſaid, had founded their oppoſition to the amendment principally upon the rigid rules ſtrictly adhered to in the courts of common law; rules which had often been the means of ſtifling juſtice, to correct the rigour of which legiſlatures had often interpoſed. Such rules could not be proper fetters for the ſupreme power of government. The hiſtory of nations proves that legiſlatures are ſuperior to them; their objects are extenſive; and in all extraordinary caſes they will make ſuch proviſions as may be requiſite to effect general juſtice and equity. The caſe under conſideration was certainly one of an extraordinary kind. He could not think that thoſe, whoſe exertions had reſcued them and us from deſpotiſm and ſlavery, were ever honeſtly paid thoſe hard-earned claims they were ſo juſtly entitled to; and could not but believe, that as long as thoſe claims exiſted, there would exiſt a ſtigma on the juſtice, humanity, and gratitude of this country.

Mr. Livermore ſaid he was againſt any diſcrimination between the ſoldier, or other public creditor, who held a public ſecurity, and the ſpeculator who had purchaſed one. He ſaid the ſecurities were made payable to the bearer, and conſequently transferable, with intent that they might be ſold, if convenience or neceſſity ſhould require it. This had been well underſtood by all parties, as well in America as in foreign countries, and ſecurities had been ſold accordingly. The advocates for diſcrimination have not denied this; they have only alledged that the low rate at which the poor ſoldier, or other public creditor, had ſold their ſecurities, was a ſufficient reaſon for Congreſs to interfere and ſet aſide the ſale. In oppoſition to this, Mr. Livermore obſerved, that perſons had a right to buy and ſell at ſuch prices as they could mutually agree upon, provided there was no fraud.

A diamond, a horſe, or a lot of ground, might be ſold too cheap or too dear, and ſo might any other property; but government could not interfere without deſtroying the general ſyſtem of law and juſtice. Eſau had ſold his birth-right for a meſs of pottage, and heaven and earth had confirmed the ſale. The diſtreſſes of the army, both officers and ſoldiers, at the time they received and ſold their ſecurities, had been painted in too ſtrong a light. They were not ſo emaciated, by ſickneſs or famine, as had been repreſented. They were crowned with victory and received with applauſe by their fellow-citizens; and although they had been paid in paper, their loſs had been made up by large bounties and in other emoluments, ſo that, in point of property, they were equal to their fellow-citizens, that had borne the burden of taxes, under which many were laboring to this day. Let them be called BRAVE ſoldiers, or PATRIOTIC ſoldiers, but not POOR ſoldiers. They ought to be governed by the ſame ſyſtem of juſtice that governs others; but their contracts ought not to be ſet aſide out of partiality to them. He ſaid the caſe quoted from the ſtatute of Queen Ann, was not applicable to this caſe, inaſmuch as government had not originally made the debentures therein mentioned transferable. Neither, he ſaid, did the caſe of the Canada bills apply; for, as he underſtood, thoſe bills were paid to Britiſh merchants, or others, who had purchaſed them.

Mr. Livermore concluded, by ſaying that he ſhould vote againſt the amendment, becauſe no ſufficient reaſon had been aſſigned that could operate in his mind againſt the general ſyſtem of right. *(To be continued.)*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3.

Mr. Ames of the committee to whom was recommitted the bill to provide for the remiſſion or mitigation of fines, forfeitures and penalties in certain caſes, preſented a report, which was read—On motion of Mr Lawrance the petition of Abraham Skinner, was read the ſecond time---and referred to a committe of three.

Mr. Sedgwick of the committee on the petition of Jehoiakim Mtochkſin brought in a report which ſtated, that the circumſtances in the petition were ſubſtantiated---and propoſed a reſolve that the petitioner ſhould be entitled to receive one hundred and twenty dollars out of the public Treaſury, in full of his claims againſt the United States.

Mr. Carrol after a few introductory obſervations ſhewing that ſeveral members wiſhed further time to digeſt the ſubject of the aſſumption of the State debts propoſed that the committee of the whole ſhould be diſcharged from a further attention to that part of the Secretary's report for the preſent, and made a motion to that effect, which was ſeconded: This motion was objected to by Mr. Smith (S. C.) Mr. Lawrance and Mr. Sedgwick—and ſupported by Mr. Seney, Mr. White and Mr. Madiſon—the latter gentleman propoſed an amendment, ſo that the committee ſhould be diſcharged, till the Secretary of the Treaſury ſhould communicate the information expected from him on the ſubject reſpecting the reſources to be appropriated for the purpoſe of paying the debts to be aſſumed: This motion was conſidered as an indirect method of getting rid of this particular part of the report altogether—and thoſe who conſidered this part as inſeparably connected with all the reſt obſerved, that if this was paſſed over they ſhould be totally at a loſs how to act with reſpect to the other objects of the report.

It was further ſaid that if this vote was adopted, it would place the State debts in a leſs eligible ſituation than thoſe of the continental—when, as it was contended they ſtood on equally meritorious footing—theſe obſervations were concluded with a motion that the committee ſhould ſuſpend the conſideration of the whole report, and not have reference to any particular part of it.—All idea of getting rid of the buſineſs as had been ſuggeſted, was diſclaimed by Mr. Carrol—He thought the obſervation uncandid.—The difference between the State and continental creditors was urged by thoſe who were in favor of the motion—and the acts of the old Congreſs to that purport, were cited—It was ſaid that no idea of oppoſition to this motion was expected, as the committee muſt ſee the propriety of waiting for the requiſite information from the Secretary of the Treaſury—The queſtion on this motion being taken, was negatived.

In committee of the whole on the natnralization bill—the ſubject of admitting foreigners to the right of holding lands occaſioned conſiderable debate—it was urged that the power of forming a uniform rule of naturalization is veſted in Congreſs by the conſtitution excluſively—and cannot reſt in the States, without involving the greateſt abſurdity—as every State has its particular mode—from which every difficulty was experienced—It is therefore neceſſary that Congreſs ſhould determine upon a rule which ſhould operate equally through all the States and go to effecting complete citizenſhip.—In reply to theſe obſervations it was ſaid that the *mode* of admiſſion to citizenſhip only, could be uniform; that Congreſs cannot interfere with the laws and regulations of the ſeveral States—their power extends only to the *rule*, but the ſubſequent parts of citizenſhip muſt depend on the regulations of the reſpective States—when a foreigner is naturalized, he will immediately enquire what rights he becomes entitled to by virtue of his new character—on motion

The ſecond and third ſections which related to foreigners holding lands were ſtruck out.—The committee having proceeded through the diſcuſſion, roſe and reported the bill with amendments—and the Houſe ordered the ſame to be engroſſed for a third reading.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4.

Mr. Contee took his ſeat this day.

The bill providing a uniform rule of naturalization, was brought in engroſſed—read the third time, and paſſed to be enacted.

The bill providing for the remiſſion or mitigation of fines, forfeitures, and penalties, in certain caſes, was read the ſecond time, and referred to the committee of the whole houſe, to be taken up to morrow.

Several petitions were read and committed.

In committee of the whole on the bill to promote the progreſs of the uſeful arts. The bill was read, and diſcuſſed in paragraphs. The clauſe which gives a party a right to appeal to a jury from the deciſion of referees, it was moved, ſhould be ſtruck out. This motion was oppoſed, as depriving the citizen of a right to which he is entitled—as improper in itſelf, as cauſes of very great magnitude may be depending, which it may be highly improper to ſubmit to the deciſion of three men only, two of which may be ſo differently intereſted, as never to agree—ſo that the deciſion may finally reſult from the influence of the perſon nominated by the Secretary of State. On the other hand it was ſaid, that it appears highly improper that juries ſhould be called to judge upon matters that they may not be ſuppoſed competent to forming a judgment of—theſe trials will always relate to matters of invention, &c. of which three perſons may be found with much greater eaſe who are competent to judge, than twelve—that the right of trial by juries is not univerſal—and in the preſent caſe there will be a much greater probability of having juſtice done by arbitrators, who are men of ſcience, &c. The motion for ſtriking out was carried in the affirmative.

The committee proceeded further in the diſcuſſion of this bill—but roſe without compleating it—and the chairman reported progreſs.

A report was received from the Secretary of the Treaſury, purſuant to orders from the Houſe, and read.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5.

Mr. Foſter of the committee on the memorials of the people called quakers reſpecting the ſlave trade brought in a report, which was read.

Mr. Gerry preſented a petition from Catharine Greene——relict of the late Major General Greene—which was read.

Mr. Scot moved that the memorial of Richard Wells and J. Hart reſpecting the old paper money, ſhould be referred to the committee of the whole Houſe.

The queſtion being taken the motion was negatived---it was then moved that it be referred to a ſelect committee of ten members—which paſſed in the affirmative.

A memorial was preſented by Mr. Tucker from the officers of the South-Carolina line of the late army.

In committee of the whole on the bill for the remiſſion, or mitigation of fines, penalties and forfeitures in certain caſes—the bill was read, and having made one amendment the committee roſe, and reported the ſame to the Houſe, who ordered the bill to be engroſſed for a third reading.

In committee of the whole on the bill to promote the progreſs of the uſeful arts—Sundry amendments were made in this bill, which were reported to the Houſe, theſe amendments with ſeveral others were agreed to, and incorporated in the bill, which was ordered to be engroſſed for a third reading on Monday next.

A meſſage from the Senate informing that they have paſſed an act to accept of the ceſſion of certain lands in the Weſtern Territory, made by the State of North Carolina—Alſo, that they have paſſed a reſolve, for giving further inſtructions to the collectors of impoſt in the United States, in which they requeſt the concurrence of the Houſe.

The bill to provide for the remiſſion, or mitigation of fines, forfeitures and penalties was brought in, engroſſed, read the third time, and ordered to lie on the table.

The act and reſolve received from the Senate were then read.

The petition of Mrs. Greene was read a ſecond time, and referred to a committee of five.

The report of the committee on the letter from the commiſſioners on accounts, reſpecting the ſalaries of the Clerks in their office was read---A motion for recommitting this report, and inſtructing the committe to bring in a bill purſuant thereto, occaſioned conſiderable debate reſpecting the difference between a reſolve and a law—the motion for recommitting paſſed in the affirmative—the ſubject of the ſouth weſtern frontiers being moved for—the galleries were ſhut.

Adjourned till Monday.

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, March 4, 1790.

In obedience to the Order of the Houſe of Repreſentatives, of the ſecond inſt. The Secretary of the Treaſury reſpectfully reports,

THAT in his opinion, the funds in the firſt inſtance requiſite towards the payment of intereſt on the debts of the individual States, according to the modifications propoſed by him in his report of the ninth of January paſt, may be obtained from the following objects:

An increaſe of the general product of the duties on goods imported, by aboliſhing the diſcount of ten per cent. allowed by the fifth ſection of the Act for laying a duty on goods, wares, and merchandize, imported into the United States, in reſpect to goods imported in American bottoms, and adding ten per cent. to the rates ſpecified, in reſpect to goods imported in foreign bottoms, with certain exceptions and qualifications: This change, without impairing the commercial policy of the regulation, or making an inconvenient addition to the general rates of the duties, will occaſion an augmentation of the revenue little ſhort of two hundred thouſand dollars.

An additional duty on imported ſugars. Sugars are an object of general conſumption: and yet conſtitute a ſmall proportion of the expence of families. A moderate addition to the preſent rates would not be felt. From the bulkineſs of the article too, ſuch an addition may be made with due regard to the ſafety of collection. The quantity of brown and other inferior kinds of ſugar imported, appears to exceed twenty-two millions of pounds, which at a half cent per pound, would produce one hundred and ten thouſand dollars. Proportional impoſitions on foreign refined ſugar, and proper drawbacks on exportation, ought of courſe to indemnify the manufacturers of this article among ourſelves.

Molaſſes, being in ſome of the States a ſubſtitute for ſugar, a ſmall addition to the duty on that article, ought to accompany an increaſe of the duty on ſugar. This, however ought to be regulated with proper attention to the circumſtance, that the ſame article will contribute largely in the ſhape of diſtilled ſpirits. Half a cent per gallon on molaſſes, would yield an annual ſum of thirty thouſand dollars. Our diſtillers of ſpirits from this material, may be compenſated, by a proportional extenſion of the duty on imported ſpirits.

Snuff, and other manufactured tobacco, made within the United States: Ten cents per pound on the Snuff, and ſix cents on other kinds of manufactured tobacco, would be likely to produce annually, from ninety to one hundred thouſand dollars. From as good evidence as the nature of the caſe will admit, the quantity of theſe articles manufactured in the United States, may be computed to exceed a milion and a half of pounds. The impoſition of this duty would require an increaſe of the duty on importation, and a drawback on exportation, in favor of the manufacture. This being an abſolute ſuperfluity, is the faireſt object of revenue that can be imagined, and may be ſo regulated, as in no degree, to injury either the growth, or manufacture of the commodity.

Pepper, pimento, ſpices in general, and various other kinds of groceries. Theſe articles will bear ſuch additional rates, as may be eſtimated to yield a ſum of not leſs than thirty thouſand dollars.

Computing according to the entries in the State of New-York, in 1788, the yearly quantity of pepper and pimento brought into the United States, is not leſs than eight hundred thouſand pounds, of which about a third is pepper. Six cents on pepper, and four cents on pimento (with draw-backs on exportation) may without inconvenience, be laid.

Salt. An additional duty of ſix cents per buſhel, may, in the judgment of the Secretary, with propriety be laid on this article. It is one of thoſe objects which being conſumed by all, will be moſt productive, and yet from the ſmalneſs of the quantity in which it is conſumed by any, and of the price, will be leaſt burthenſome, if confined within reaſonable limits. If a government does not avail itſelf, to a proper extent, of reſources like theſe, it muſt of neceſſity overcharge others, and particularly, give greater ſcope to direct taxation. The quantity of this article, annually imported, being at leaſt a million and a half of buſhels, the annual product of an additional duty of ſix cents may be computed at ninety thouſand dollars.

Carriages, ſuch as coaches, chariots, &c. Theſe articles may certainly be the ſubject of a conſiderable duty. How productive it would be, is not eaſy to be eſtimated. But it is imagined, that it would yield not leſs than fifty thouſand dollars per annum.

Licenſes to practiſers of the law. Certain law proceedings, and various kinds of writings. The extent of this reſource can only be determined upon trial; but the Secretary feels a ſtrong aſſurance, that there may be drawn from it yearly, not leſs than two hundred thouſand dollars. The ſyſtem for collecting a duty of this kind, would embrace playing cards, and ſome other objects of luxury, which do not fall under the above deſcriptions, but which are eſtimated in the ſuppoſed product.

Sales at auction (excluſive of houſes or lands, or thoſe made in conſequence of legal proceſs, or of acknowledged inſolvency.) One per cent on ſuch ſales, would, probably, produce a yearly ſum of forty or fifty thouſand dollars.

Wines and ſpirits ſold at retail. Theſe articles are, in the opinion of the Secretary, capable of being rendered far more productive, than has been generally contemplated; and they are, certainly, among the moſt unexceptionable objects of revenue. It is preſumed, that two hundred thouſand dollars per annum, may, with facility, be collected from the retail vent of theſe articles.

The foregoing objects, are thoſe, which appear to the Secretary, preferable towards a proviſion for the debts of the individual States. There are others which have occurred to him as ſupplementary, in caſe the experiment ſhould diſcover a deficiency in the expected product; but which he conceives it unneceſſary now to detail. He will only add, that he entertains no doubt of its being practicable to accompliſh the end, on the principles of his former report, without the neceſſity of taxing, either houſes or lands, or the ſtock or produce of farms.

The Secretary conceiving the deſign of the Houſe to have been to obtain from him a general delineation only of the funds, competent in his judgment to the proviſion in queſtion, has refrained from thoſe details, which would be indiſpenſable, if that proviſion were immediately to be made; and to have furniſhed which would have occaſioned greater delay than would, probably, have ſuited with the preſent ſtate of the buſineſs or the convenience of the Houſe. He with great deference truſts, that what is now offered will be deemed a ſatisfactory compliance with their order.

The ſtatement required reſpecting the product of the duties on imports and tonnage to the laſt of December, as far as returns have come to hand, is contained in the ſchedule herewith preſented.

All which is humbly ſubmitted,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, *Secretary of the Treaſury.*

Abſtract of the nett proceeds of the duties on Imports and Tonnage.

N. Hampſhire, from *Auguſt*	11,	7,789	21½	To 31ſt *Dec.* 1789.
Maſſachuſetts, — —	10,	113,439	54½	
Connecticut, — —	11,	20,352	87½	
New York, — —	5,	152,198	97	
New Jerſey, — — —	1,	1,971	51	
Pennſylvania, — —	10,	188,494	94	
Delaware, — —	1,	6,573	98½	
Maryland, — — —	10,	87,751	6½	
Virginia, — —	17,	142,028	62	
S. Carolina, — —	31,	55,032	61½	1 *Dec.*
Georgia, — —	22,	8,850	80¾	
Dollars,		784,487	14¾	
Deduct for drawbacks, 2 pr. cent.		15,689	74	
Dollars,		768,797	40¼	

☞ *Port of Boſton only to 19th December.*

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

HAPPENING in the gallery of the Houſe of Repreſentatives, when the bill for regulateing the Poſt-Office, as reported by a Committee, was read, I was not a little ſurpriſed to find no mention made of European Packets. The extraordinary manner in which the Engliſh Mails are *received* and *delivered* at the Poſt-Office in this city, appears to me to require the interpoſition of the Legiſlative Body. I am told, and I believe it to be true, that when a Packet from England arrives at this port, the Mail is immediately taken to the houſe of the Britiſh Agent, where it is by him opened, and ſuch letters taken out as he pleaſes—after which it is ſent to the Poſt-Office. The letters *for* Europe that are to be ſent by Packets, are received at the Poſt-Office, and ſent by the Poſt-Maſter to the Britiſh Agent—who has again the privilege of *culling* them. Diſpatches for his Britannic Majeſty's officers, and all letters for Canada, are reſerved by the Agent, which I conceive muſt very materially injure the revenue of the Poſt-Office Department. At a moderate calculation, the poſtage of them to Albany would amount, during the winter ſeaſon, when they can be conveyed no other way, to 1500 dollars. Such liberties to an American Agent I fancy would hardly be granted in any part of Europe—and in Great Britain it would be a novelty indeed, to find even an Embaſſador conveying mails thro its dominions by any other channel than the Poſt-Office.—You may poſſibly hear from me again, when Congreſs reſumes this buſineſs. Z.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 22, 1790.

A *REPORT having circulated, founded as it is publicly aſſerted, on the beſt authority, that "when the queſtion was moved at the laſt meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New-York for diſavowing certain principles contained in a petition publiſhed in the public papers, and recommended to the attention of the officers and ſoldiers of the late army, moſt of the members preſent were taken with ſurpriſe, and the main queſtion paſſed* ſub ſilentio, *but that many of the members ſince have expreſſed their diſapprobatian of the reſolution, and it is ſuppoſed, if there ſhould be a full meeting of the ſociety had on the ſame queſtion, the ſenſe of the majority would be againſt it." Be it remembered, That the following notice was publiſhed in the New-York Daily Gazette of January 1, 1790.*

"A general meeting of the New-York State Society of the Cincinnati, will be held on Monday the firſt day of February next, at 6 o'clock, P. M. at the Lodge Room in Cortlandt-Street---The punctual attendance of the members is required. "By order of the Preſident,

Jan. 1. JOHN STAGG, jun. Sec'y."

And that after it was made known, that the petition above mentioned would be ſubmitted to the ſociety for their conſideration, the following notification was addreſſed to every member in the city, and ſent by the Secretary to their houſes, viz.

"SIR,

"A general meeting of the New-York State Society of the Cincinnati, will be held on Monday the firſt day of February next, at 6 o'clock, P. M. at the Lodge Room in Cortlandt Street; your punctual attendance is requeſted. By order of the Preſident,

Jan. 28, 1790. JOHN STAGG, jun. Sec'y."

That on the evening of the firſt of February a greater number of members (than uſual) appearing, and many more than the number requiſite to do buſineſs, the ſociety proceeded to examine the ſituation of their funds, and to receive the reports of the ſeveral committees, on the points which had been committed to them at the laſt general meeting. The petition referred to was then laid before the ſociety at or about 9 o'clock, and it was ordered to be read.——

A motion was then made, "That the Society reject the petition and diſavow the principles it contains;" this motion was ſeconded, and a reſolve ſubmitted to the conſideration of the Society, and after a conſiderable debate relative to the wording of the reſolve (its principles never being objected to) and amendments being propoſed and paſſed, one member raiſed doubts reſpecting the expediency of paſſing the reſolve, and moving the previous queſtion, which being loſt, the queſtion was taken on the reſolution, as has been publiſhed, at eleven o'clock; and ſo far from paſſing ſub ſilentio, *that the* ayes *founded as an* unanimous *vote; and when on motion, the queſtion was reverſed, there was not a diſſenting voice.*

It was then moved and ſeconded, that the reſolve be publiſhed in the public papers, of this city, and paſſed unanimouſly.

A true ſtatement of the Proceedings of the New-York State Society of the Cincinnati, held at the Lodge Room, in Cortlandt-Street, on Monday the 1ſt day of February, 1790. JOHN STAGG, jun. Sec'ry.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 6.

Thurſday laſt was the anniverſary of the firſt meeting of Congreſs under the new conſtitution—a day to be remembered with peculiar pleaſure by all the friends to the civil rights—the property, happineſs and future glory of theſe riſing States—on that auſpicious day, we received the ſureſt pledge of enjoying and perpetuating the invaluable acquiſitions of "*Peace, Liberty, and Safety.*" "Then old anarch's kingdom fell"—and our country invigorated in her councils, and animated by her proſpects commenced anew, her career in the road of empire, fame, and honor.

Some perſons in writing and ſpeaking of the general government, uſe ſuch a ſtile as would lead a ſtranger to ſuppoſe they had reference to a *foreign* juriſdiction: To ſay nothing of the injuſtice of this practice, it is injurious to the eſſential intereſts of the *State* and *General* Governments, as it has a tendency to excite jealouſies, create diſtinctions, and form an ideal incompatibility of intereſts—whereas we muſt all ſtand or fall together—and an enemy of the General Government is an enemy of the State Governments, and *vice verſa.*

Doubtleſs there are ſome ſpirits in all ſocieties of ſo malignant an aſpect, that they never can be at eaſe, while the people are happy under any ſyſtem of government whatever—theſe perſons endeavor to impreſs on the public mind that government is an *evil*—they will acknowledge, merely to ſave appearances, that it is a *neceſſary* evil—It will be well to attend to the operation of this ſentiment; from conſidering government as an evil, we are naturally led to conſider thoſe that adminiſter it, as evil inſtruments in an evil cauſe—this tranſition is eaſy; and perhaps is one of the moſt plauſible foundations on which the unprincipled diſturbers of human happineſs, can raiſe a ſyſtem of ſucceſsful ſedition.—From a ſpecious concern for the public good the beſt adminiſtration that ever was formed may be attacked, with a probable chance of making impreſſions to its diſadvantage—and to the infinite injury of the public intereſt. This ſentiment independent of its falſehood, and pernicious tendency, contains likewiſe a moſt infamous ſatire on human nature—for as mankind cannot ſubſiſt as civilized communities, without laws and government, they muſt either be governed as *rational beings* who know how to combine their ſeveral intereſts for the mutual benefit of the whole—or, be conſidered (if in a ſtate of ſociety) as aſſociating animals, united by bonds formed on a principle of univerſal ſuſpicion of each other.—This latter idea of government would correſpond with the temper and genius of ſuch perſons; for, judging from their own particular bias, or propenſity, *they* realize that confidence, in ſuch a government, would be forever diſappointed in its expectations.

The revolution of America is not founded on the idea that government is a neceſſary evil—but on the reverſe that it is the choiceſt bleſſing heaven ever has beſtowed on the human race—and the refined, free, liberal ſtate of ſociety which the United States are now enjoying, under the new conſtitution, evinces the falſhood of the idea—it ſuggeſts alſo this pleaſing reflection, that as we have made ſo great, and obvious progreſs in improving the condition of human nature, we ſhall continue to perſevere in the line of the conſtitution—by ſupporting and ſtrengthening the hands of our civil rulers—by a generous diſdain of the feeble, but malicious invectives and ſlanders of thoſe, whoſe envy at our growing greatneſs, and encreaſing happineſs, can find no reſt, but in venting itſelf in lies and defamation—and in attempts to *belittle* the free and independent citizens of this glorious country in their own eyes.

The people of the United States are at this moment in a more eligible ſituation, than any other nation now upon the face of the globe—nor have we any reaſon to ſuppoſe, that any of the nations that have gone before us, ever enjoyed a greater degree of poſitive happineſs—and with reſpect to our *proſpects*, we may juſtly aſſert that the experience of mankind has never produced a parellel—but there are ſome perſons who would be tormented by a ſituation in paradiſe—would even a celeſtial adminiſtration pleaſe ſuch characters? I trow not.

The ſociety of the Cincinnati of this State at a late meeting, voted unanimouſly, to celebrate the *birth day* of the Preſident of the United States in future.

The ST. TAMMANY ſociety have voted that they would celebrate this event, on the 22d. day of February—the ſociety of the CINCINNATI have not announced *their* day.

The Houſe of Aſſembly of this State has paſſed a Reſolution, appointing His Excellency GEORGE CLINTON, RICHARD VARICK, and JOHN WATS, Eſquires, Commiſſioners, with authority to build a Government Houſe, on the ground where the Fort ſtands, and to draw *twenty thouſand dollars* out of the Treaſury of this State for that purpoſe. The ſaid building to be appropriated for the accommodation of The Preſident of the United States, while Congreſs remain in this city.

On Thurſday laſt Mr. ARTHUR LEE took the neceſſary oaths for his admiſſion to the bar of the Federal Court, as a Counſeller at Law.—This gentleman, (whoſe talents and law knowledge ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed him in the Courts of Weſtminſter, prior to the commencement of the late glorious revolution, in the whole courſe of which his abilities and patriotiſm were ſo ſucceſsfully exerted for the benefit of his country,) will, we doubt not, be another ſhining ornament to the Federal Bar—and will, we hope, meet with thoſe returns from his fellow citizens, in the line of his profeſſion, which his long-tried integrity, and high character juſtly entitle him to: Thoſe conſiderations, we hear, have induced the Hon. Judges of the Supreme Court to diſpenſe with a ſpecial rule of the Court in his favor, which precluded the admiſſion of any perſon as a counſellor, who had not practiced as ſuch in ſome of the Superior Courts of the States for three years antecedent to the adoption of the New Conſtitution.

Every friend to America muſt be highly gratified, when he peruſes the long liſt of eminent and worthy characters, who have come forward as Practitioners at the Federal Bar—where the moſt important rights of Man muſt, in time, be diſcuſſed, and determined upon, as well thoſe of nations, as of individuals. Happy country! Whoſe Judges, (rendered independent—and ſelected for their wiſdom and virtue,) conſtitute ſo firm a barrier againſt tyranny and uſurpation on the one hand, and fraud and licentiouſneſs on the other.

Of Members of Congreſs choſen in the State of North Carolina, we have only heard of The Hon. HUGH WILLIAMSON, and The Hon. J. B. ASH, Eſquires.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR A MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

☞ *MEDALS, from the earlieſt period of time, have been regarded, by every enlightened people, as the greateſt help to hiſtory, and the beſt method of tranſmitting to poſterity the memory of the heroes and patriots of the age, and one of the moſt honorary compliments a grateful people could confer on their favourites;—As the hiſtory of mankind furniſhes no inſtance of a hero or patriot who has better deſerved, or has been more juſtly intitled to the affections or eſteem of a grateful people, than the Preſident of the United States—an artiſt is induced to offer to the citizens of America, a medal with a ſtriking and approved likeneſs, and ſuch inſcriptions or allegorical figures as ſhall beſt ſuit ſo great a character; and he humbly hopes to be honoured with their patronage.*

To SUBSCRIBERS—*a medal will be delivered of fine white metal, to reſemble ſilver, for one dollar; of a fine, gold-colored metal, for two dollars; of fine ſilver for four dollars; and of gold in proportion to weight.*

SUBSCRIBERS *will pleaſe to particulariſe the kind they chooſe. As the medals are now ſtriking, and will be ready to deliver in a few days after the order comes to hand, it is hoped every gentleman will pay at the time of ſubſcribing.*

*** SUBSCRIPTIONS *will be received at the Poſt-Office in this City;—or any gentleman may have any number ſent to any part of the continent, by his order and remittance for the ſame, to J. MANLY, to the care of* ROBERT PATTON, *Eſq. Poſt Maſter,* PHILADELPHIA.

COPY—WE, the underſigned, have ſeen the medal of the Preſident of the United States; and think it a ſtrong and expreſſive likeneſs, and worthy the attention of the citizens of the United States of America.

THOMAS MIFFLIN, *governor of the ſtate of Pennſylvania.*
RICHARD PETERS, *ſpeaker of the houſe of aſſembly.*
CHRISTIAN FEBIGER, *treaſurer of the ſtate.*
FRANCIS JOHNSTON, *colonel of the late American army.*

PHILADELPHIA, *February* 22, 1790.

ALEXANDRIA, Feb. 18.

On Thurſday laſt an elegant Ball was given at Mr. Wiſe's Tavern, in commemoration of that auſpicious day which gave to the world the illuſtrious and beloved Preſident of the United States. The company was numerous and brilliant. Every heart expanded with thoſe pleaſurable emotions which the happy occaſion naturally inſpired. Every countenance was ſuffuſed with joy, Beauty—always powerful—now arrayed in univerſal ſmiles—ſhone with unuſual ſplendour. Moſt of the gentlemen preſent had been witneſſes of the affectionate and pathetic leave which the Patriot and the Hero had taken of this town and neighborhood laſt ſpring, when called by the unanimous voice of his countrymen to fill the chair of empire.

In the very room where they were aſſembled to celebrate the day of his nativity they had ſeen him laboring with ſenſations, almoſt unutterable, excited by the neceſſity of bidding adieu to thoſe whom he was pleaſed to honor with the appellation of "affectionate friends and kind neighbours." Upon this endearing circumſtance they reflected, and will continue to reflect with peculiar complacency. Long—very long—may this great and good man live, to receive this annual tribute of the eſteem, the affection, and the veneration of a grateful people!

ARRIVALS.—NEW-YORK.

Wedneſday. Sloop Dolphin, Carpenter, Savannah, 9 days.
Friday. Sloop Betſy, Brooks, Philadelphia, 6 days.

From the MARYLAND JOURNAL *and* BALTIMORE ADVERTISER.

THE ÆOLIAN-HARP.

An Extract from "THE SYMPATHIES OF SOUND." *&c.*

(*A* POEM, *not published.*)

WHEN sunless twilight dims departing day,
And silent darkness, in her wonted way,
Rolls on the deep'ning shades, till closing night,
Repos'd in slumber quenches human sight;
When, inward turn'd, and wand'ring now no more
O'er hill and dale, the Soul can best explore
The regions of IDEA—where wonders rise—
A never-ending train! to mental eyes——
Give me to listen in the lonely room,
Where fitted to enchant amid the gloom,
Th' ÆOLIAN HARP, with ear-bewitching wail,
Drinks in the current of the airy gale:
When stealing breezes, easy on their way,
Creep on the cords, and vibrate these to play:
Then, O what melodies uniting flow,
Harmonious trembling to the breathing wo:
Such softly-soothing modulation swells,
Tingling the strings among, like distant bells;
So mournful dying down the sinking wind,
As pours a stream of rapture o'er the mind.

Hush'd then the sound a moment pausing lies,
Till rung symphonious sweeter tones arise,
Twang'd in melodious millions—string to string,
Romantic, then their soft Pianos sing:
Full, full and sad, the fairy accents fly,
And speaking perish, tell their tale and die:
Till conjured by the breathing breeze, again
They come, they swell, and sink in softer pain;
Borne on their magic wings, to swift decay,
Unnumbered notions, rising, melt away;
Back, back, to distant days, forever gone,
They charm the mind with the memorial moan:
For, from the far-fled PAST, on airy wing,
The necromantic melodies can bring
The joys, the sorrows, long, long since no more,
That flow'ring dy'd in worlds enjoy'd before.
The pensive-pleased soul with many a sigh
Infected thus, grows sad, and knows not why:
Whilst misty pictures shooting through the mind
In mingling currents, indistinct combin'd,
Haste, haste along, as new successions flow,
Soft, sweet, and sad, in joy, and solemn wo.

Or, dim reflected, visionary things,
From future worlds, ANTICIPATION brings:
Drawn thro the rueful light of umber gleams,
Or yellow lustre of etherial dreams,
Event on event, op'ning without end,
Whose closing links man cannot comprehend:
Struck from the transient, airy, elfin things,
Whose playful fingers sport among the strings:
A higher animation moves the mind,
In TENDER SENSIBILITY refin'd;
Till caught by SYMPATHY to fields unkown,
Where free from Matter, SPIRIT dwells alone,—
The soul renews its primitive employ,
And tastes the purest intermundane joy:
She feels harmonious from the trembling string,
Congenial motion, Music thence can bring;
For sure that spark of never-dying flame,
Deriv'd from HARMONY ETERNAL came;
And thus attractive touch'd, expands away
To other worlds of far serener day:
That unremember'd state, from man conceal'd,
Where mind deborn sits in its native field:
For who can tell, when earth's dark days are done,
But future time shall see a brighter sun!
For, present ills of poverty and pain,
Like earth's own darkness, are not sent in vain;
But from that very source shall joys arise,
Transcendent glorious——TO THE GOOD AND WISE.

THEOLOGISTORICOPHILOSOPHOLOGOS.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

LETTER.——No. V.

MR. FENNO,

DISTANT as the evils I have enumerated are from us; slow as would be their growth, were opinions like these adopted, they would be no less certain. A more gradual manumission, if inhabitancy among us is thereby understood, would infuse its baneful effects only by slower degrees. Sure we are in duty bound, to transfer the blessings received from providence, unimpaired to our offspring: It cannot be right to charge our posterity, out of generosity to our slaves, with evils subversive of the present felicity of the empire. Here I must stop—it will be said, and I believe it, that I have attacked opinions flowing from respectable sources; therefore I almost expect, to be largely repaid in the same coin; but as I did not mean, either to offend, or to dictate, if my opinions are honored with the notice of a learned criticism, I lament, I can only improve my judgement by it, as my leisure is taken up by avocations, which allow no time for controversies.

From the grounds I have travelled over, I come to the means to obviate the evils I have represented. Benevolence is, I know, natural to American freemen, they will bestow with liberal hands blessings upon others: Confident that this sentiment is general, I will, in my next, submit to the better understanding of an enlightened public, a plan of this tendency: To lessen slavery gradually without a shock to private property: To manumit without injury to society the slave, who has deserved that favor, and to provide for him, as well as for those who are already stamped with this mark of munificence by their generous masters.

However, before I go into an explanatory discussion of these articles, I must first predispose to the subject, what I have said in letter the 3d—That "if nations are not compelled by circumstances, they will suffer no slaves among them." I apprehend that some of our southern States are in that compulsory situation, because the number of freemen bears no proportion to the extent of ground: This has greater influence there, than in the northern States, where the climate is favorable to the constitution of a people of European origin; but when the southern States have acquired a population, proportionate to the extent of ground; when cultivation will have made the air salubrious, then slaves will be nearly as needless there as they are now in the northern States.

Considering also the countenance, which the fathers of the federal government, our worthy rulers, have given to agriculture, we may safely conclude, that this will be productive of many inventions, facilitating, and abridging handywork in agriculture: Yet taking only what is already invented, should gentlemen choose to make use of them, not only half the quantity of slaves in the southern States would be sufficient for agriculture, but there would also be twice as much ground tilled as there now is.

RUSTICUS.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

RUSTICUS in his third letter tells us, that he "was compelled to travel over *large* philosophical and historical grounds, to find the place of the *wool hairy* negro in the order of nature," and concludes, that as the ox is born to till his ground, so is the negro born to be the slave of other nations. "Most lame and impotent conclusion"—even could our philosopher prove that the *sheep* hairy African is an inferior animal to the long haired European (which I hope I have shewn to be a false as well as ungenerous idea) still how absurd is the notion, *that nature should form an animal, endue him with reasoning powers, and place him in a clime congenial to his frame; only that he should be torn away from that climate to serve another animal differing from him only in the colour of his skin and length of his hair.* Our philosopher tells us, that amongst animated beings, the weakest is ruled by the strongest. This we are to suppose is a law of nature—a law for man—that whoever is stronger than his neighbor, may seize him and sell or force him to till his ground, or whoever is wiser than another, may over reach and despoil him of his property—What becomes of the generous principle which teaches the strong to protect the weak? No, this is not the nature of man—the savage does not so—'tis the civilized European that takes advantage of the superiority, civilization gives him over the untutored African, and robs him of his liberty to indulge himself in luxury—'Tis the civilized European that corrupts the African, and prompts him like the white to betray his brother—and such philosophers as Rusticus, would persuade the European that he is right.—Neither is the sheep hairy African inferior in strength of body or mind to the European. Civilization is all that gives the boasted superiority, and according to our philosopher's principle, the most powerful nation has a natural right to seize on the property and persons of the weaker. So not only the sheep hairy negro is born for slavery, but the horse hairy native of America, or in short, people of black, brown or read hair, if another people have force or cunning to subdue them. Most admirable philosophy! After all his pains and trouble to convince the world that from our inferior nature, we black, sheep hairy negroes are marked out for slaves.—Rusticus concludes that it is impolitic *to keep us so.*—Then why endeavor to lower us in the eyes of our white brethren? Are we not already sufficiently despised? When my daily work is done, and I put on my Sundays cloaths to sit myself for the converse of those *unphilosophic* men who patronize me; as I pass through the street how often do I hear—Kye! Massa Mungo! you tinka you buckra; while another curses the damn'd proud negro! These are the sentiments which the pen of a philosopher is labouring to encourage.—If pride must be the consequence of human wisdom, may I still remain in simplicity of heart, a plain, unphilosophic, black, sheep hairy, free citizen of America.

AFRICANUS.

LONDON, Dec. 31.

THE magistrates of Liege have issued an order to the following purpose, viz.

1st, That as the wearing cockades was only a signal of the nation's wish to have the regulation of 1684 abolished, and the poeple re established in their rights, there did not now remain any reason for wearing them, as they had received two specific assurances, one of the 29th of November, and another of the 15th instant, in the name of a powerful Monarch, stating, that they should be protected in those rights. They therefore invited all the citizens to leave off wearing cockades.

2d, That respecting the point which related to the Burgess companies and Patriot guards; it was evident, that being re-established in their rights of 1684, their existence was secured; at the same time they respectfully assured the Serene Princes, that they should be carefully employed to maintain peace and tranquillity.

3d. They recommended to the citizens to continue treating those troops (the Prussians) with all the care they merit, as friends and protectors.

The affairs of Liege is likely to produce some troubles, though the Prussians have quiet possession of it with 9000 chosen men; but the Imperial chamber of Wetzlear, on the 4th instant gave notice, that they will not listen to any terms of accomodation, and insist upon the Prince being re-established directly in all the powers he formerly enjoyed.

The Island of Jersey takes the lead in the present patriotic reformation: and as soon as the above resolutions were carried, a communication thereof, and an invitation, was immediately transmitted to Guernsey, where the opposition was much stronger and more numerous, but where, however, the rights of British subjects at length prevailed.

A model of the Hebe frigate has been exhibited before the first Lord of the Admiralty; it is on a scale of sixty feet to an inch; the ribs are of polished steel, and the masts, decks, &c. of gold; the guns all steel, their carriages gold; the sails of silver, with the blocks, and every rope as fine as a hair of the same. This beautiful epitome, of the first frigate in our service, was executed under the direction of Mr. Knight, purser of the Hebe.

The Spaniards at Malaga are building three ships of the line, one of 70, one of 50, and the third of 40 guns, heavy metal.

Extract of a letter from Montelimar, December 2.

"On Saturday last a confederate camp, of between 30 and 40 communities, from Vivarez and Dauphine, was formed on the plain of Auriol, to the number of 12,000 men all armed, with provisions on their mules for two days. These brave citizens took with great solemnity the following oath:

"We French citizens on both sides of the Rhone, from Valence as far as Pouzin, all in brotherly union, rejecting all sorts of distinction, swear on our honor and arms, consecrated to the defence of the State, that our will, strength, and fortitude, are devoted to our country, to the support of the laws enacted by the National Assembly, and to the King, who so greatly deserves, and has so just a claim to our love. We swear mutually to assist each other in the performance of so sacred a duty, and to employ our army this very moment, if necessary, for the service of our illustrious brethren of the municipality of Paris. We shall look upon as criminal towards the nation, all those who shall dare to insult, either by words or writings, the decrees of the august Representatives of the nation, and those who shall not pay all the respect which is due to the most just, and most popular, and the most beloved of Monarchs.

"Nine commissioners have been named for the correspondence of this patriotic confederacy, who are to meet at Voute, a small town in the Vivarez, on the 24th instant, where the regiments will send some detachments."

Accounts from Vienna says, that Prince Maurojeni, Hospodar of Wallachia, was not only in the interest of the Emperor, but that it was he himself who invited the Austrians into his country, he having no other way of securing both his life and his treasures, of both which he was likely to be deprived by the Porte. This accounts for the abundance of provisions which the Prince de Cobourg found every where on his way, after he entered Wallachia, but particularly at Buchaerst, its capital.

To convince the people that in passing from the Turkish to the Austrian dominions, the change was for the better, the Prince de Cobourg prohibited all plunder under pain of death; and gave the strictest orders to his troops to pay ready money for every thing with which the inhabitants should furnish them.

The Prince, to avail himself of the consternation which the taking of Buchaerst had occasioned among the Turks, staid only one day in that city, and marched out the next with a considerable body of troops, to penetrate farther into the country, and drive the few remaining Turkish troops across the Danube.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 3.

The following is a copy of the roll of Counsellors, and Attornies sworn in the Supreme Court of the United States.

COUNSELLORS.

Elias Boudinot, Thomas Hartley, 5th Feb. 1790. Egbert Benson, John Lawrance, Theodore Sedgwick, William Smith (S. C.) Morgan Lewis, James Jackson, Fisher Ames, George Thatcher, Richard Varick, Robert Morris, 8th Feb. 1790. Samuel Jones, Abraham Ogden, Elisha Boudinot, William Paterson, Ezekiel Gilbert, Corn. J. Bogert, Feb. 9. 1790.

ATTORNIES.

William Houston, Edward Livingston, Jacob Morton, Barth. de Haert, John Keese, Peter Masterton, William Wilcocks, Feb. 10, 1790.

The court then adjourned to the next term, viz. the first day of August next.

On the 15th ult. Arthur Lee, Esq. Barrister and Doctor of Laws, was, by a special order, of the Supreme Court of the United States, admitted a Counsellor in the said Court.

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

Has for Sale, at his EAST-INDIA GOODS STORE,
No. 4, BURLING-SLIP,

A General Assortment of EAST-INDIA GOODS,

Among which are the following Articles:

BOOK Muslins 8-4 6-4 5-4	HUMHUMS,
Jackonet do.	Long Cloths,
Hankerchiefs, of various kinds,	Cassas,
Chintzes,	Seersuckers,
Ginghams,	Boglapores.

A Variety of handsome painted MUSLINS.

With many other Articles, which will be sold by the Piece or Package, low for cash.

And a few pair large handsome Cotton COUNTERPANES, much warmer than Blankets.

To be LET,

And possession given the 1st of April, for one or more years, (two miles and half from this city, on the Greenwich road,)

THAT New TWO STORY HOUSE—four Rooms on a floor; with six fire places; a new Barn, and Well of excellent Water; a young Orchard of Fruit Trees, with 7½ acres of Land, the most part Meadow. For particulars enquire at No. 7, Maiden-Lane. *New-York, February 20.*

THIS DAY IS PUBLISHED,

(Price Six Shillings, bound and lettered)

And to be sold, by appointment of the Author, by Messrs. BERRY and ROGERS, No. 35, by A. M'LEAN, No. 41, (Franklin's Head) Hanover Square, and by the Editor hereof, No. 9, Maiden-Lane,

GEOGRAPHY MADE EASY:

BEING AN ABRIDGEMENT OF THE
AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY.

CONTAINING,

ASTRONOMICAL Geography: Discovery and General Description of America: General View of the United States: Particular Accounts of the Thirteen United States, in regard to their Boundaries, Extent, Rivers, Lakes, Mountains, Productions, Population, Characters, Government, Trade, Manufactures, Curiosities, History, &c.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A Geographical Account of the European settlements in America; and of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Illustrated with eight neat MAPS and CUTS.

Calculated peculiarly for the use of Schools in the United States.

BY *JEDIDIAH MORSE*, A. M.

Minister of the Congregation in Charlestown, near Boston.

Second Editon. Abridged by the Author.

A work which has long been wanted, to accommodate Schools; and for the use of children in families. Geography now claims a very general attention—and that of our country in a particular manner; for in proportion as this is understood it will inspire the rising generation with elevated ideas of their own character, when contemplating the magnificent theatre on which they are to act the parts assigned them: Hence the propriety of the observation—

Let all foreign climes alone,
Till you understand your own.

☞ *Wanted by the Editor of this paper, a House that will accommodate a large family, and the printing business—from the first of May next.*